

MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

MEETING DATE:

March 19, 2007

CALL TO PODIUM:

Fred Felton, Assistant City Manager

RESPONSIBLE STAFF:

Fred Felton, Assistant City Manager

AGENDA ITEM:

(please check one)

	Presentation
	Proclamation/Certificate
	Appointment
	Public Hearing
	Historic District
	Consent Item
	Ordinance
	Resolution
	Policy Discussion
	Work Session Discussion Item
X	Other: Introduction

PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:

(Please complete this section if agenda item is a public hearing)

Introduced	
Advertised	
Hearing Date	
Record Held Open	
Policy Discussion	

TITLE:

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 6C of the City Code Entitled "Elections" Article III Entitled "Absentee Voting" Section 6C-14 Thereof Entitled "Who May Vote" so as to Permit Qualified Voters to Choose to Vote by Absentee Ballot Without the Requirement That the Voter be Absent From the City on the Day of the Election

SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:

The Ad Hoc Election Participation Advisory Committee and the Board of Election Supervisors have recommended that the Mayor and City Council go to public hearing on an ordinance that would permit qualified voters to obtain absentee ballots for City elections without providing a reason.

Under current City law, absentee ballots are only permitted when a qualified voter is scheduled to be absent from the City on election day, or when a voters physical disability prevents them from being present at the polls on election day.

During the March 12, 2007 work session, the Council gave informal guidance to schedule this ordinance for introduction.

DESIRED OUTCOME:

Staff recommends the Council vote to introduce this ordinance, and notify the public that the hearing will be held on April 9, 2007.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 6C OF THE CITY CODE
ENTITLED "ELECTIONS" ARTICLE III ENTITLED "ABSENTEE VOTING" SECTION 6C-14
THEREOF ENTITLED "WHO MAY VOTE" SO AS TO PERMIT QUALIFIED VOTERS TO
CHOOSE TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT WITHOUT
THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE VOTER BE ABSENT FROM THE
CITY ON THE DAY OF THE ELECTION

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor & City Council of the City of Gaithersburg, in public meeting assembled, that Chapter 6C of the City Code, Section 6C-14 is hereby amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 6C
ELECTIONS

* * * * *

Sec. 6C-14. Who may vote.

Any qualified voter [who will be absent from the city for any reason on a special, primary, or general election day, or whose physical disability will prevent him from being present at the polls on such an election day, shall be entitled] may choose to vote by absentee ballot rather than appear in person at the polls on election day.

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SIDNEY KATZ, MAYOR and
President of the Council

DELIVERED to the Mayor of the City of Gaithersburg, Maryland, this _____ day of 2007.
APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Gaithersburg, this _____ day of _____, 2007.

SIDNEY KATZ, Mayor

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing ordinance as adopted by the City Council of Gaithersburg, in public meeting assembled, on the _____ day of _____, 2007 and that the same was approved by the Mayor of City of Gaithersburg on the _____ day of _____, 2007. This Ordinance will become effective on the _____ day of _____, 2007.

David B. Humpton, City Manager